क्षमता के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले प्रत्याशित उपलब्धि 188.00 हजार हेक्टेयर है।

Extension of EMU trains

*272. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Users in the Patna-Barauni Sector of Eastern Railway have been demanding since long for extension of the existing EMU train service between Patna-Mokemah upto Begusarai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have examined their demands in terms of viability of such extension;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to extend this train upto Begusarai; and

(d) if so, what is the time frame drawn up for the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Since it is a non-electrified section EMU stock is not playing on the section.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise?

Losses incurred by the Food corporation of India

*273. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has incurred huge losses during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what action Government propos to take to improve the marketing in the said Public Sector Undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Food Corporation of India procures and distributes foodgrains at predetermined prices fixed by the Government. The issue prices do not fully cover the handling cost of foodgrains by FCI. As a deliberate social policy, the difference between economic cost of the foodgrains and issue prices fixed by the Government is reimbursed to FCI by the Government as subsidy.

The Corporation, however, in its various operations involving huge quantities of foodgrains, incurs certain losses, mainly in the form of transit and storage losses. The relevant details in this regard for the years 1987-88 to 1989-90 are given below:—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Value in Rs. crores

Year	Purchase+Sales		Transit & Storage losses		Percentage of losses in terms of Qty. over Pur.+Sales
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
1987-88	407.00	9113.17	7.01	169.89	1.72
1988-89	338.25	8447.69	4.23	113.95	1.25
1989-90	350.06	9692.29	2.96	87.94	0.85

The transit and storage losses for 1990-91 will be available after the accounts of FCI for 1990-91 are audited and finalised.

(b) The Corporation has taken a number of steps to reduce storage and transit losses. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are:—

(i) Strict enforcement of quality specifications relating to moisture during procurement of foodgrains;

(ii) Reduction in the quantum of foodgrains filled in each bag;

(iii) Installation of weigh-bridges in depots having capacity of 5000 tonnes or more;

(iv) Minimising the use of open wagons;

(v) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stock verification etc.

(vi) Augmentation of covered storage capacity;

(vii) Encouraging machine stitching of bags.

Encouragement for use of aluminium

*274. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging use of aluminium to replace steel, wood and the like;

(b) what steps have been taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Government are encouraging the use of aluminium to replace wood and metals like copper and *tin.*

(b) With a view to promote the use of aluminium, the following steps have been taken:

(i) exemption from excise duty for aluminium door/window frames and kitchenware items;

(ii) promoting use of aluminium furnitures by initiating fabrication of prototypes of school and office furnitures through National Institute of Designs;

(iii) dissemination of information and creating awareness regarding advantages of using aluminium by sponsoring working group discussions, seminars and exhibitions.

(c) The above steps were accelerated after the country became self-sufficient in aluminium. In recent years the pattern of demand has shown a relative shift from electrical sector to other uses.

दिल्ली–मुरादाबाद रेल लाइन का विद्युतीकरण तथा उसे दोहरा किया जाना

*275. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मोम अफजल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हापुड़ से होकर जाने वाली दिल्ली-मुरादाबाद बड़ी रेल लाइन को दोहरा किए जाने और उसका विद्युतीकरण किए जाने संबंधी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस योजना को कब तक पूरा करने का विचार रखती है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी०के० जाफर शरीफ) : (क) दिल्ली-गाजियाबाद खंड का पहले ही विद्युतीकरण हो चुका है तथा इस खंड पर लाइन भी दोहरी बिछी हुई है। हापुड़ के रास्ते गाजियाबाद से आगे मुरादाबाद तक दोहरी लाइन बिछाने या विद्युतीकरण करने का फिलहाल कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।